

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
San Luis Valley Field Office
46525 Highway 114
Saguache, CO 81212**

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-F03-2014-017 CX

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER (optional):

PROJECT NAME: Zapata Subdivision Escape Routes

PLANNING UNIT:

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T.27S, R73W, Sec 32 and T.28S, R73W. Sec 6

APPLICANT: Zapata Subdivision Association

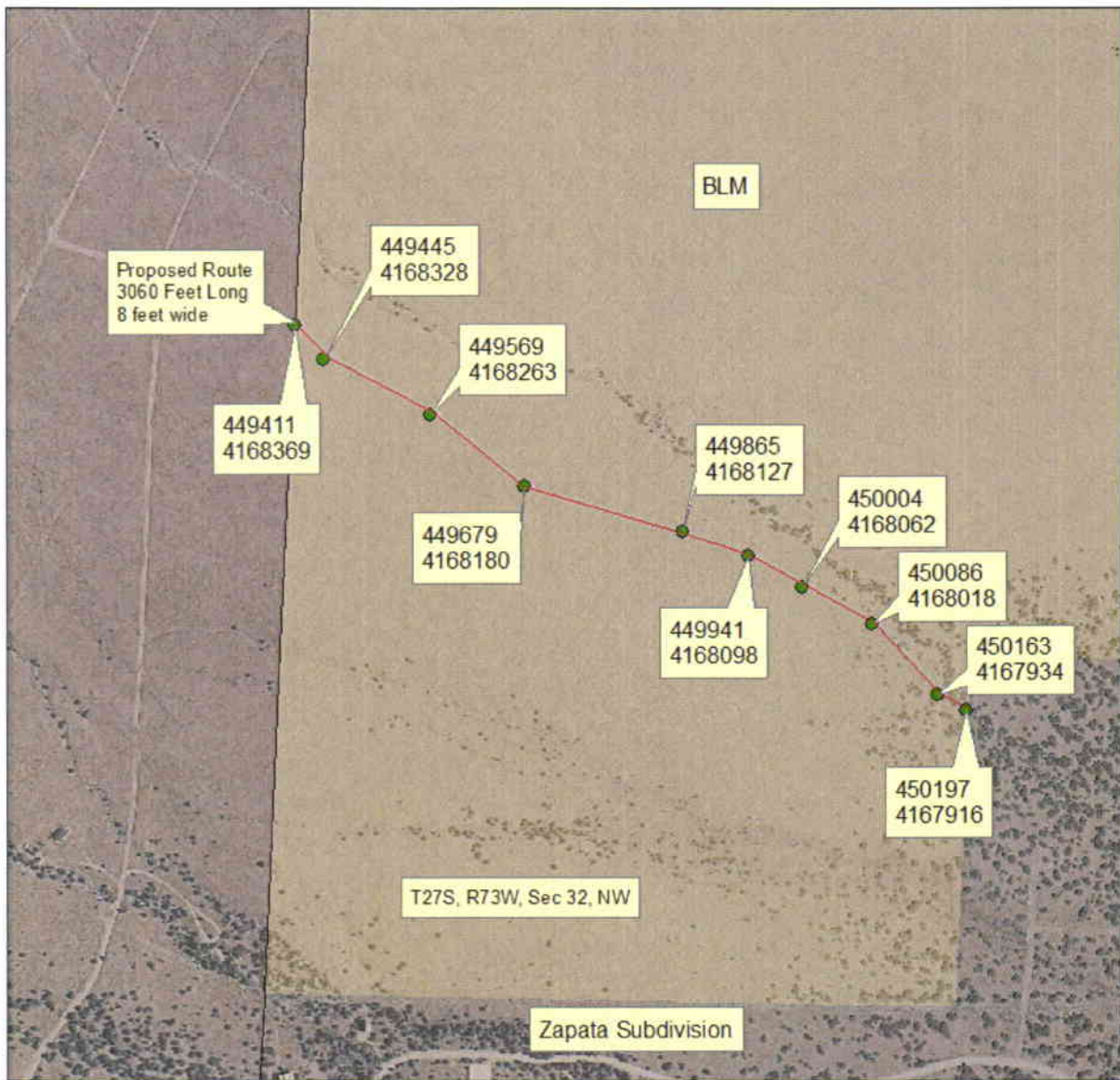
DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION

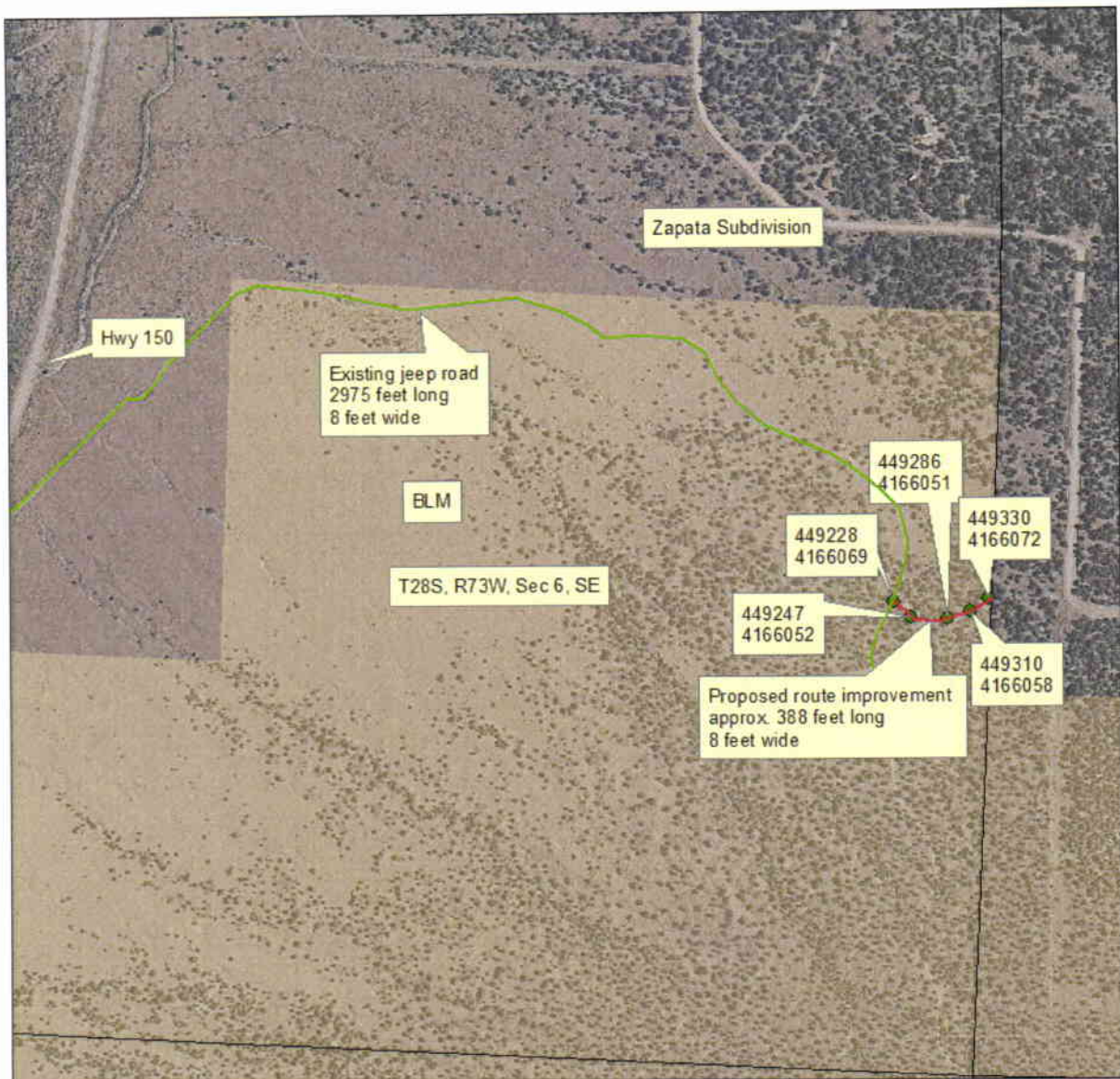
The Zapata Subdivision has submitted an application for the purpose of developing 2 escape routes. Currently, the subdivision only has one access road in and out of the subdivision. The proposed emergency escape routes will provide additional emergency escape routes for the subdivision residences. The proposed escape routes will only be used in emergency situations such as wildfire. The escape routes will be gated at the private/BLM boundary and residents will only be allowed to use them for emergencies.

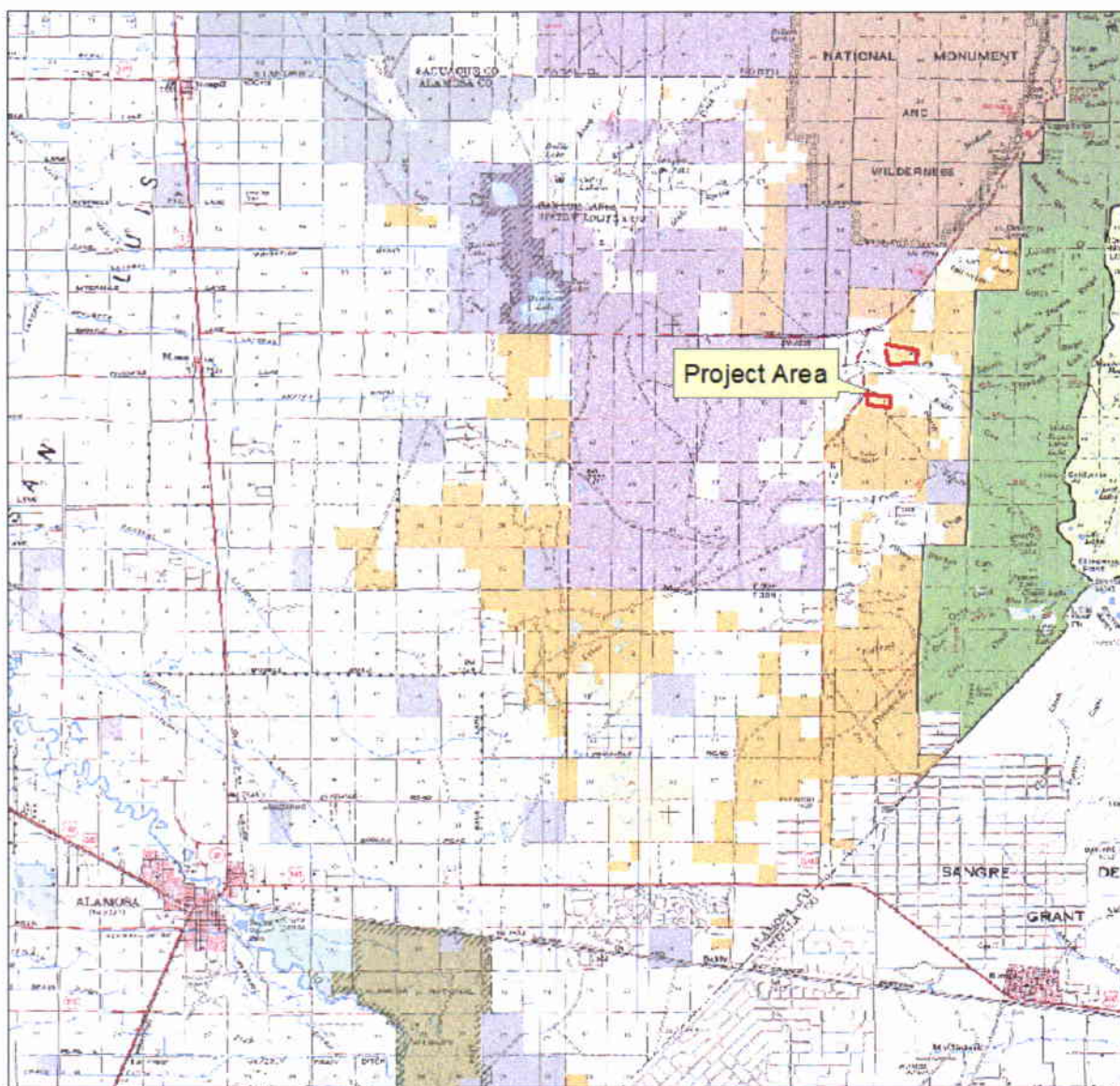
The proposed southern escape route is located in the SRMA and will consist of minor construction and improvement of approximately 388 feet of new 2 track road. There will also be a few high spots that will be leveled and a few low spots that will be filled in to make it passable by passenger cars. It will then connect to an old existing jeep road that goes to Hwy 150. The old jeep road will also require very minor improvements.

The northern escape route is located just north of the subdivision and will consist of minor improvements such as; moving some rocks, filling in a few low spots, and improving a few rough spots for passenger cars to use in case of emergencies. The applicant may also be using a roller to flatten down high spots and smooth the route for easier escape.

The applicant is proposing to do as little improvements as possible so that the routes are almost unseen by the public but usable in case of an emergency.





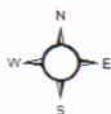


DOI-BLM-CO-F03-2014-017 CX

Zapata Subdivision Escape Routes
COC-76451

T. 28S., R. 73W., Sec 6
and

T 27S., R. 73W., Sec 32



0 1 2 4 6 8 Miles



PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3) the following plan:

Name of Plan: San Luis Resource Management Plan

Date Approved: December 18, 1991

Decision Number: ROD – 1 -17 (Lands and Realty- LUA), Page 15

Decision Language: All other BLM lands will be open to rights-of-ways for other utility lines, roads, etc... and each request will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis for alignment and mitigation stipulations

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW: This proposed action is listed as a Categorical Exclusion in DOI Departmental Manual Part 516 Chapter 11 E (17). None of the following exceptions in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, apply.

Exclusion Criteria	YES	NO
1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety.		X
2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; lands with wilderness characteristics; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands; floodplains; national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.		X
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.		X
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
7. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.		X
8. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.		X
9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations.		X

11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites.		X
12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species.		X

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM REVIEW			
NAME	TITLE	AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY	Initials/date
Chris Boone	Wildlife Biologist	Terrestrial Wildlife, T&E, Migratory Birds, Fisheries	CB 06/16/2014
Melissa Shawcroft	Range Management Spec.	Range, Vegetation, Farmland	MJS 6/30/2014
Sue Swift-Miller/Jill Lucero	Wildlife Biologist	Wetlands/Fisheries	JRL 6/16/2014
Eduardo Duran	NRS	Riparian, T&E species	END 6/26/2014
Andrew Archuleta	Physical Scientist	Minerals, Paleontology, Waste Hazardous or Solid	ASA 6/3/14
Negussie Tedela	Hydrologist	Hydrology, Water Quality/Rights, Soils, Air Quality	NHT 06/23/2014
Leon Montoya Sean Hines	Cadastral Surveyor	Cadastral Survey	LAM 6/23/2014
Sean Noonan	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreation, Wilderness, LWCs, Visual, ACEC, W&S Rivers,	STN 6/11/14
Martin Weimer	NEPA Coordinator	Environmental Justice, Noise, SocioEconomics	mw, 6/12/14
Jeff Brown	Archaeologist	Cultural, Native American	JGB 6/25/2014
Leon Montoya	Realty Specialist	Realty Actions	LM 6/12/2014

REMARKS:

Cultural Resources: Only one isolated find, by definition ineligible for the National Register of Historic Places, was recorded in the project area. Therefore, the proposed project will have no impact on any historic properties (those eligible for the NRHP).

Discovery and Education: All persons in the area who are associated with this permit shall be informed that any person who injures, destroys, excavates, appropriates or removes any historic or prehistoric ruin, artifact, object of antiquity, Native American remains, Native American cultural item, or archaeological resources on public lands is subject to arrest and penalty of law (16 USC 433, 16 USC 470, 18 USC 641, 18 USC 1170, and 18 USC 1361). Strict adherence to the confidentiality of information concerning the nature and location of archeological resources would be required of the proponent and all of their subcontractors (Archaeological Resource Protection Act, 16 U.S.C. 470hh). If new cultural values are discovered during operations, all work in the vicinity of the resource will cease and the Authorized Officer with the BLM notified immediately. The operator shall take any additional measures requested by the BLM to protect discoveries until they can be adequately evaluated by the permitted archaeologist. Within 48 hours of the discovery, the SHPO and consulting parties will be notified of the discovery and consultation will begin to determine an appropriate mitigation measure. BLM in cooperation with the operator will ensure that the discovery is protected from further disturbance until mitigation is completed. Operations may resume at the discovery site upon receipt of written instructions and authorization by the authorized officer.

Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g), the holder must notify the authorized officer, by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony on federal land. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4 (c) and (d), the holder must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery that could adversely affect the discovery. The holder shall make a reasonable effort to protect the human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony for a period of thirty days after written notice is provided to the authorized officer, or until the authorized officer has issued a written notice to proceed, whichever occurs first.

Native American Religious Concerns: There are no known Native American concerns within the Area of potential Effect (APE).

Threatened and Endangered Species: There are no known threatened, endangered, candidate, proposed, special status, sensitive, or other plant species of concern that would be affected by the construction of the escape routes.

Vegetation: Equipment should be rinsed and cleaned before entering public lands in accordance with BLM weed control guidelines to prevent and control the spread of weeds.

COMPLIANCE PLAN (optional):

NAME OF PREPARER:

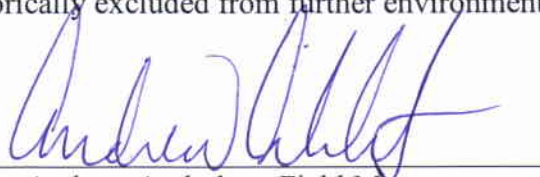
NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR:

DATE:

DECISION AND RATIONALE: I have reviewed this Categorical Exclusion and have decided to implement the Proposed Action.

This action is listed in the Department Manual as an action that may be categorically excluded. I have evaluated the action relative to the 10 criteria listed above and have determined that it does not represent an exception and is, therefore, categorically excluded from further environmental analysis.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andrew Archuleta", written over a horizontal line.

Andrew Archuleta, Field Manager

DATE SIGNED:

7/3/2014